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**COMMON GRAMMAR ERRORS**  
*student writing problems*

**PUNCTUATION BUNDLE**

**Punctuation** *Detect*

Directions: Rewrite the sentences to correct the punctuation errors.

1. While it is raining outside, please bring your functional useful umbrella.
2. Jasmine shook leaves from the long, brown rug.
3. "I need new glasses," Sam said. "But I also want, wait!"
4. Going home for Christmas Abigail packed up her dorm room.
5. I drink warm tea, before I go to bed at night.
6. My grandma is a well rounded individual.
7. My parents listen to records I don't even know how to play them.

**PUNCTUATION SERIES**

*Improve Your Writing: Overused Words*

Directions: Read the sample sentence under each heading. Write a general overview of why each sentence needs improvement.

- Do include power verbs. Suspense helps a story.
- Do use formal language. We all kicked it after school.
- Do use strong transitions. My second example is when the...

Do not include:

- Do not use clichés. Have it...
- Do not use weak verbs. Repeating words can limit your message.
- Do not assume. Everyone knows...
- Do not insult your audience. All people have...

**PROBLEM:** Repeating words can limit your message.

**SOLUTION:** Look at your commonly used words, often verbs that don't provide imagery. Use your vocabulary to provide an image.

Directions: Look at the paragraph and follow the directions.

Chad is late for school! He always forgets to set his alarm. Chad wants breakfast, but he never has time to eat. His room told him that he should go to bed earlier than he does. Chad never gets to bed at a decent time.

Look at them. What kind of verbs are they?

**MINIMIZE OVERUSED WORDS**  
*prevent thesaurus abuse*

2. Rewrite the paragraph...

# COMMON WRITING ERROR: WORDINESS

**PROBLEM:**

Repeated information that creates wordiness in writing.

**SOLUTION:**

Do not repeat information in numerous ways. Make your writing concise.

Directions: Rewrite each sentence to eliminate wordiness.

1. The new boy, who was new to our school, adjusted to a new class schedule.
2. The hot chocolate cocoa warmed our cold hands.
3. Tommy, a great guitar player, played guitar in several bands.
4. At her birthday party, the birthday girl received presents from her friends and guests.
5. She painted in her art studio and drew in there too.
6. Christie, a teacher, developed an activity for her students at school.
7. I left my math notebook in class, and I need it for my math homework.
8. The old computer freezes because it is outdated and needs replaced.
9. That delicious dinner was so good that I ate a second serving!
10. The band's song was loud because so many people play instruments.

# COMMON WRITING ERROR: WORDINESS

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**SOLUTION:**

Do not repeat information in numerous ways. Make your writing concise.

Directions: Rewrite each sentence to eliminate wordiness.

1. The new boy, who was new to our school, adjusted to a new class schedule.

*The new boy at school adjusted to his schedule.*

2. The hot chocolate cocoa warmed our cold hands.

*The hot chocolate warmed our cold hands.*

3. Tommy, a great guitar player, played guitar in several bands.

*A great guitar player, Tommy played in several bands.*

4. At her birthday party, the birthday girl received presents from her friends and guests.

*The birthday girl received presents at her party.*

5. She painted in her art studio and drew in there too.

*She painted and drew in her art studio.*

6. Christie, a teacher, developed an activity for her students at school.

*Christie, a teacher, developed an activity for students.*

7. I left my math notebook in class, and I need it for my math homework.

*I left my math notebook in class, and I need it for homework.*

8. The old computer freezes because it is outdated and needs replaced.

*We should replace our old computer that freezes.*

9. That delicious dinner was so good that I ate a second serving!

*I ate a second serving of that delicious dinner.*

10. The band's song was loud because so many people play instruments.

*The band's song was loud.*

# COMMON WRITING ERROR: PASSIVE VOICE

**PROBLEM:**

Unnecessary passive voice slows a reader's experience.

**SOLUTION:**

Only use passive voice with purpose.

Directions: Underline the verbs in the following sentences. Label each as being in passive or active voice. If the verb is in passive voice and should be in active voice, rewrite the sentence.

1. Jamalye dusted her house.
2. My dog was given a bath.
3. Jameson was writing a poem.
4. Last night, Megan drove her brother home.
5. After band practice, the instruments were put away.
6. The battery was smashed into pieces.
7. Braylon tidied his bedroom.
8. Before school, Jeni's hair was brushed.
9. Blocks were assembled by all the children.
10. Brady and Waylon's apartment was robbed.

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## SOLUTION:

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Directions: Underline the verbs in the following sentences. Label each as being in passive or active voice. If the verb is in passive voice and should be in active voice, rewrite the sentence.

1. Jamalye dusted her house.

*active*

2. My dog was given a bath.

*passive: Matt gave the dog a bath.*

3. Jameson was writing a poem.

*active*

4. Last night, Megan drove her brother home.

*active*

5. After band practice, the instruments were put away.

*passive: After band practice, students put away their instruments.*

6. The battery was smashed into pieces.

*passive: The machine smashed the battery into pieces.*

7. Braylon tidied his bedroom.

*active*

8. Before school, Jeni's hair was brushed.

*passive: Before school, Jeni brushed her hair.*

9. Blocks were assembled by all the children.

*passive: The children assembled the blocks.*

10. Brady and Waylon's apartment was robbed.

*passive: This sentence should remain passive so not to draw attention to the person who did something wrong.*